

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2003

Attendees: Philip Schlossberg (Department of Public Health)
Dermot Jones (Department of Public Health)
Bert Geuser (ACT Laboratories)
Phil Rusconi (Premier Laboratories)
Kim Maloney (Wallingford Water and Wastewater Laboratory)

Business:

1. Discussion of number of previously held meetings. Approximately four were held, i.e. NELAC, Bioterrorism.

2. (Bert) Questioned if the members received emails. Update of everyone's email address is necessary.

3. NELAC meeting recap: Bert suggested that the health department separate mission critical items from non-mission critical items so that NELAC inspection checklists and the standards that are prescribed to the lists can be incorporated into health department inspections. Dermot responded that Nick Macelletti would have had to hire additional inspectors to initiate such a program. The NELAC issue is a dead issue in the health department due to the financial burden. Bert suggested that the health department at least incorporate NELAC inspection guides when doing the laboratory audits. Dermot responded that NELAC tends to be document review oriented focusing on SOPs and the QA Plan and is not necessarily a good indication of laboratory capabilities. Phil Rusconi added that his laboratory received an inspection from the state of NY that interviewed the bench staff and that also lasted two days.

4. The Department of Public Health is open to an opinion letter from the advisory committee on the issue of reporting results based on altered data as a private laboratory was recently found to have been doing in the past. Phil Rusconi volunteered to draft a letter and forward it to Bert Geuser regarding laboratory data integrity.

5. Dermot outlined the purpose of the advisory committee.
- For situations such as the DEP issue on the analysis of mercury in sludge problem
 - New procedures
 - Act as a reference or resource for future regulations as it relates to Environmental Laboratory Certification

Dermot reminded us that a lot of health department information is posted on the website.

6. Membership for the committee needs to be determined. Regulation specifies the make-up of the committee but not the number of members. Bert offered to send DPH a list of active members.

7. Dermot acknowledged the work Bert has done as the chairman of the Advisory Committee and asked Bert to send out an inquiry to find out who might be interested in taking on the role to chair the committee.

8. Dermot and Philip would like to set a goal for at least two meetings a year. The two meetings for 2004 were tentatively set for January 30th and June 11th at 10AM in the Legislative Office Building. It is anticipated that the June meeting agenda will be on Solid Waste Proficiency Testing and that Don Gonyea from the DEP will be invited. Future agenda items: Laboratory Fraud, Solid Waste Proficiency

9. Dermot reported that the Health Department would be adding nitrites to the DMR testing program in response the meeting with DEP dealing with the nitrification of Long Island Sound. The reasoning for Nitrite to be included in the WP study format is that results for Nitrite, Nitrate and TKN are being audited by DEP in the administering the Nitrogen Credit Trading program. However, Kim Maloney noted that this would not include those laboratories performing NPDES monitoring analysis who do not have Health Department certification.

10. Phil Schlossberg discussed the need for a Solid Waste Proficiency Testing program. Currently, if a laboratory passes the WP PT it is automatically certified for solid waste testing. Phil noted that New York already has a Solid Waste PT program. Bert felt that initial demonstration of performance should be sufficient. Dermot reported that if laboratories are to be certified for solid waste then they should be held to the same amount of scrutiny. Kim Maloney suggested we obtain copies of SW certification programs from NY and other states.

11. Bert brought to the meeting copies of the cover page of EPA 233-B-00-001 *Environmental Management Guide* for Small Laboratories. He stated that he would make the .pdf file available to committee members.

12. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Maloney.